

Today, Rep. Luján applauded the investment of \$31 million into part of the U.S. 491 corridor that runs through New Mexico and the Navajo Nation. These funds will be used to improve the highway's overall safety by constructing a median as well as two new lanes to manage the increased commercial traffic in the region. It will also improve signs, intersections and drainage facilities.

"These funds will be used to not only create much needed jobs in New Mexico and the Navajo Nation but will also invest in our safety, and the safety of our children, " Rep. Luján said.

"Northwest New Mexico has suffered under these difficult economic times and the availability of these roads for emergency access will make a difference in our local community. I am excited to see Recovery Act funds working for New Mexicans. "

The U.S. 491 corridor project was one of 51 recipients selected out of over 1,400 applications to receive funding through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program. This grant awarded resources for projects that demonstrated significant economic and environmental benefits to a region. The 69 miles of the U.S. 491 corridor included in the project includes a stretch of road that has a fatality rate 3.6 times higher than the state average. These funds will be utilized to prevent these accidents.